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CENTURY 21

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Health agencies, school board prepare for COVID-19

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

An automated voice message on the answering machine of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre tells callers that if they are experiencing potential symptoms of COVID-19 – fever, cough, difficulty breathing – to avoid any unscheduled visits to the clinic. Instead of presenting to health-care centres and emergency rooms, they should contact the local health unit for an assessment by phone prior to arranging to be tested.

"If you have a fever, and/or a new onset of a cough, or difficulty breathing, and you have travelled internationally in the 14 days before the onset of the illness, or have had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of coronavirus, or close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness, who has travelled internationally in the 14 days before their symptom onset, please alert clinic staff immediately," the phone message says.

Calling ahead first helps frontline staff take precautions prior to being exposed to anyone who might have the very contagious illness, which is still considered to be at low-risk of transmission in Canada, according to public health officials.

On Monday this week, Canada reported the first death related to COVID-19, in British Columbia, while Ontario reported 34 confirmed cases of the virus and World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

see THE page 2

Plotting a destination plan

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

A number of residents shared their ideas on tourism strategies for the county during a town hall meeting at Haliburton Legion on the evening of March 3.

That meeting, facilitated by Greg Oates of marketing firm MMGY NextFactor, was part of a series of input sessions the company conducted last week. The County of Haliburton has hired MMGY NextFactor to create a destination development plan, designed to help further map the sustainable development of the Haliburton Highlands as a tourist destination.

"So it's a five-year plan, a long-term roadmap to bring all the pieces together to align them, create that shared vision for everyone to kind of rally together to leverage tourism, or what we call the visitor economy, to benefit the community," Oates said. "I just really want to emphasize, it's really a community-driven destination development plan. We're not coming in here and really saying much, we're just asking questions, we're providing the structure, and then we're providing feedback and context."

The company has worked with more than 250 destinations and Oates said many of them have been resort-driven, traditionally seasonal economies, so communities with some of the same

see LACK page 3



Skiing to end the season

Nordic skier Duncan Evans-Fockler participates in the final session of the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association's Jack Rabbit and Track Attack instructional youth program offered on Saturday, March 7 at Glebe Park in Haliburton. Youth participants enjoyed a final session to the season with fun activities and games, including races. The youth program, which provides Nordic skiing instruction to children as young as four, is held weekly on Saturdays in January and February at Glebe Park in Haliburton. See more photos on page 14. /DARREN LUM Staff



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'The landscape is changing daily' with COVID-19

from page 1

said the coronavirus is closer to causing a pandemic.

At press time, almost 110,000 cases of the virus had been reported by more than 100 countries worldwide, with most cases being noted in China, South Korea, Italy and Iran. Ontario's first cases were reported at the end of January.

"The list of countries that are kind of the highest risk right now is getting fairly long and again the international travel could mean that you're passing through, that you've been on a flight with someone else that has been in a high-risk country, through an airport, you name it," said Kim Robinson, executive director, Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, and office manager at the medical centre, who said that travel along with sickness is what can lead to an initial assessment.

Symptoms of COVID-19, which may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure and which might be mild, have included fever, cough, difficulty breathing and pneumonia in both lungs.

Robinson noted the information public health officials have is being updated frequently. "It's changing, the landscape is changing daily with this outbreak, with this virus," she said.

Should residents need further assessment, the public health unit will direct potential local cases of COVID-19 to centres that can do testing – right now, that means area hospitals, said Robinson, which have access to the tests, again calling ahead.

"Although the risk of becoming ill from COVID-19 continues to be low in Ontario, the local health unit and its community health partners are continuing to work together to ensure they are prepared should a case develop locally," reads a joint media release on March 2 from Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Pine Ridge health partners.

The media statement said that the local health unit was working with other health institutions in the region to ensure all are up to date.

"This includes sharing resources like the evolving case definitions, testing protocols, as well as infection prevention and control guidance and support and updated fact sheets on COVID-19. As well, the health unit provides support to the health-care partners to ensure active

screening protocols are in place and that appropriate health care staff have been fit tested for the proper protective equipment."

"There have been a number of improvements made in the way we prepare for wide-spread illnesses since we experienced SARS," said Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health for the HKPR District Health Unit, in the press release. "Across the province we have seen improvements in communication about the illness and cases, improved laboratory testing protocols and quicker test results shared with health professionals for the stringent contact follow-up and management involving potential cases. The bottom line is that we are prepared for if, and when, we may see a case locally."

Noseworthy noted that seasonal respiratory illnesses, including influenza, are still circulating in the community.

A letter sent home to families on March 5 by the Trillium Lakelands District School Board noted the board is in "close contact with our two public health units and will continue to follow their guidance and recommendations regarding the spread of COVID-19."

"If we hear of a case of COVID-19 in one of our buildings, we would take immediate direction from the local health unit," Sinead Fegan, TLDSB communications officer told the *Echo*.

The school board said it is taking steps to be sure it is prepared for the spread of the illness.

"Currently we are making sure that all surface areas in schools are cleaned daily," read the letter home. "Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are being delivered to schools. School staff will monitor the use of these products by students. There will be immediate replacement of custodial staff if a custodian must be absent."

The letter reminded the school community to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the same way they might prevent the spread of cold and flu, through preventative measures that include hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette, by staying home when sick, keeping clean and

encouraging healthy habits like eating well, being physically active and getting enough sleep.

"It is important to reassure your children about their personal safety and health," said the letter home. "Telling children that it is OK to be concerned is comforting."

March Break takes place next week, and the board noted the risk to Canadian travellers abroad is generally low but will vary depending on the destination, recommending that parents consult the travel section on Ontario's web site or at Canada's travel.gc.ca. Students are currently not going on field trips due to labour actions, however the TLDSB did cancel international school trips planned for March and April – none were planned from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

A Fenelon Falls Secondary School and Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow and Budapest planned to depart April 10 was announced to be cancelled on March 3.

"This cancellation comes amid travel advisories for much of Europe and Asia and a number of actions taken by governments to try to contain any further spread of the virus," said Larry Hope, director of education, in a letter to parents and students regarding the decision. "We recognize that this will be disappointing however we are not prepared to risk illness for unnecessary travel. The school is currently working with the travel company and with students to find an alternate time to reschedule the trip at a later date. If this is not possible, information will be provided about accessing a refund."

For more information on COVID-19, contact the health unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020, or visit www.hkpr.on.ca. After hours, people can call Telehealth Ontario for medical advice toll-free at 1-866-797-0000. People are also encouraged to continue to rely on credible sources of information about COVID-19, including daily updates at The Ontario Ministry of Health website (www.ontario.ca/coronavirus) or the Public Health Agency of Canada website (www.canada.ca/coronavirus)

New visitor centre receives federal funding

JENN WATT

Editor

Funding for the visitor centre planned for construction in Haliburton's Head Lake Park will receive a large financial boost from FedDev Ontario's Canadian Experiences Fund.

On Monday, the federal government announced the Municipality of Dysart et al would receive \$375,000 to build the accessible visitor centre, which is to include gender-neutral washrooms and tourism information space.

The idea was first brought to Dysart council by the Rotary Club of Haliburton, which is contributing \$75,000

to the project, celebrating the club's 75th anniversary.

Construction is expected to commence this spring with the building to be completed by the end of 2020.

"Head Lake Park is the centre of action in our little village of Haliburton year round for so many festivals, events and everyday activities. We identified a need for accessible public washrooms and a visitor centre years ago but without this support we have not been able to make this a reality. We look forward to the construction of this fabulous new addition to our park," Mayor Andrea Roberts said in a press release.

Minister of Economic Development Mélanie Joly said that the investment would draw more visitors to the park and enhance year-round tourism experiences.

With files from Chad Ingram

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Explosion sends worker to Toronto hospital

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

A worker on a residential construction site in Highlands East was airlifted to hospital in Toronto with serious injuries after an explosion on the property on the morning of Wednesday, March 4.

According to the OPP, the worker, who's an employee of a Fenelon Falls-based construction company, was the sole person working on the site on Aspen Lane at the time, and was taken to a local hospital by ambulance before being transported to Toronto by Ornge Air Ambulance.

"It was reported a worker sustained injuries while starting up a propane salamander heater when it exploded," a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Labour told the *Echo*. A ministry inspector and a representative from the Ontario Fire Marshal's office visited the site and are performing investigations.

Vehicle stop leads to arrest of passenger

A Highlands East resident was charged with breaching court-ordered conditions following a traffic stop by City of Kawartha Lakes OPP.

According to information from the police, on March 5, an officer pulled over a vehicle on Kawartha Lakes Road 121 near Russet Road for a traffic offence. The officer noticed the passenger was acting in an unusual fashion and after some inquiries it was determined that the 31-year-old Highlands East resident had breached their court-ordered conditions.

The accused was arrested and charged with failing to comply with a release order other than to attend court and was held for a bail hearing. A court appearance is scheduled in Lindsay on March 6.

Ice Out Contest

Mark your calendar for Friday, March 27: the deadline to submit your best guess for when the last chunk of ice will melt off Head Lake in Haliburton. The winner receives a free one-year subscription to the *Haliburton Echo*. Guesses must include a day and time. Send them to jenn@haliburtonpress.com.

Contest win to give player rare NHL experience

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Highland Storm player Hunter Hamilton is excited to see the Toronto Maple Leafs play and share the ice with his hockey hero, Mitch Marner, thanks to an opportunity offered through the Scotiabank Skaters contest.

Hunter will be skating around the rink during the pre-game warm up for the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Nashville Predators game this Thursday at the Scotiabank Arena in Toronto. The prize includes four tickets to the game, a Scotiabank hockey jersey, the Scotia Hockey Club Merchandise Pack, and a personalized digital player card with a photo from the experience.

Hunter, 8, has played hockey for five years and is a defenceman with the novice aged Storm.

He loves the game for the friends he's made and the time he spends with them, playing hockey, eating hot dogs and having sleepovers.

Hunter calls Marner his favourite player and said "I like his cool moves," which he intends to ask the NHL player about.

Hunter's mother Cheryl said he has been working on pulling off the lacrosse move Marner has performed, which is when you pick up the puck from the ice with the stick and score.

His father Mike, who also coaches his son in hockey for the Storm, said Hunter told him he was excited to see the team's starting goalie "Freddy" Anderson and is looking forward to being able

to fist-bump all the players on the skate around.

He adds that he's anticipating the scene of his son on the NHL ice.

"Just being down on ice level and getting to see your kid out there being with the NHL players is pretty cool," he said.

Although the Predators includes Haliburton's Matt Duchene, Mike said Duchene was unable to commit to a meeting due to scheduling constraints.

"You never know, he may come over after the anthem," he said.

His hope is the experience will motivate his son to work on his game, seeing where hard work can take him.

"I'm honestly hoping when he goes and does it and sees what it is that it connects him more with hockey and makes him want to try harder at being a better hockey player too," he said. "Just like in work, something triggers you to be better at your job."

The parents are taking their entire family, including two sisters, one older and

“

Getting to see your kid out there being with the NHL players is pretty cool.

— Mike Hamilton



Eight-year-old Hunter Hamilton is looking forward to being a Scotiabank Skater, which will enable him to join the Toronto Maple Leafs during the pre-game warm-up before this Thursday's game at the Scotiabank Arena. Hunter is the lucky winner of the Scotiabank Skater contest and will have his family there, cheering him on when the Leafs play the Nashville Predators. /DARREN LUM Staff

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one younger. The prize pack includes four tickets and so they have bought an extra ticket so all five of them will get to go and see Hunter.

With Duchene's family and friends expected to attend the game, there is likely to be at least 20 people from the Haliburton County area, Mike said.

All of this almost didn't happen according to Cheryl.

"They called me on Friday, [Feb. 21] and I hadn't checked my voicemail and we were on our way to Peterborough for hockey on Sunday. I was listening to my voicemail on the way. 'Oh, my God.' Nobody could hear what I was hearing and I was like, 'I think it just said you get to go skate with Mitch [Marner].' The problem was it said in the voicemail 'we need to hear back from you by the end of today and I sent you an email and haven't heard back.' So I went through my junk mail and I didn't find anything. So, and this was on Sunday, so I'm like, 'Oh, no, he's not going to be [going] because he missed the deadline.'

We crept [the contact] on Facebook and sent her a message: We're Hunter Hamilton's parents and we really don't want to miss this opportunity." The contact wrote back and assured them all was good and the opportunity was still available.

Until she got the voicemail, Cheryl had forgotten she had entered the contest.

"I often submit entries, but you never think you're going to win anything," she said. "So, yeah, when [we] got the call it was pretty exciting."

The Scotiabank Skaters Contest includes the Calgary Flames, Edmonton Oilers, Montreal Canadiens, Toronto Maple Leafs, Winnipeg Jets, Manitoba Moose, London Knights and the Toronto Marlies.

Enter at www.scotiabankskaters.com. The contest is open to children aged seven to 14. "Winners must be confident in their skating ability in front of large crowds and those selected will be asked to complete an online qualification form," the website says.

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points of view



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DAVID ZILSTRA,
Publisher and Ad Director, ext. 37,
david.zilstra@gmail.com

JENN WATT, Managing Editor
ext. 39, jenn@haliburtonpress.com

JENNIFER MCEATHRON, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

DEBBIE COMER, Circulation,
debbie@haliburtonpress.com

CHAD INGRAM, Reporter,
chad@haliburtonpress.com

DARREN LUM, Reporter,
ext. 38, darren@haliburtonpress.com

SUE TIFFIN, Reporter
sue@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

LAURA CHOWZUN, Production

STACEY POTLIVO, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales,
ext. 32, laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

PAT LEWIS, Inside Sales
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Community immunity

AN UPTICK OF cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Canada is being reported with each daily update by the Public Health Agency of Canada, and though the public health risk of the fast-spreading virus to the general population remains low in Canada at this time, some populations might be at greater risk of complications if they encounter it, including our elderly and immunocompromised neighbours.

That's why even if the risk is low to the general population, and it's not particularly helpful to one's self or family to panic, following some basic guidelines is important so that we can help protect the people in our community who are more susceptible to greater consequences of not just COVID-19, but other contagious illnesses like seasonal influenza viruses.

If you haven't yet or recently, take a moment to ensure you have conscientious health habits to protect the people in your community in case of an outbreak here, or just in general:

- Recognize that while COVID-19 – or respiratory illnesses such as influenza, for that matter – might not be of immediate concern to you, although anyone can become vulnerable due to illness, it could affect the health and lives of people around you in ways you haven't considered.
- Wash your hands, well and frequently. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60 per cent alcohol, if you don't have access to soap and water. Avoid touching your face and be aware of how often you touch your eyes, nose and mouth compared to how often you wash your hands.
- Keep frequently touched and shared surfaces clean.
- Refrain from hoarding supplies,

including masks, so that others including the medically vulnerable and health-care professionals are not left without.

- Employers can ensure offices, including publicly used spaces such as washrooms, are cleaned frequently, and should have a plan in place to allow for employees to stay home if sick or to self-isolate, if need be.

- Avoid crowds if you are sick, could potentially be sick, or if the situation in Canada becomes less stable. If you don't avoid travelling, know what to do in case you get sick while abroad. Know what to do if you get sick at home – call Telehealth (1-866-797-0000) or a doctor or emergency department before visiting.

- Get your flu shot and check up on other vaccinations you might be missing so that you can help contribute to

herd immunity.

- Check on neighbours regularly, but especially through the winter season when weather and isolation and peak flu season can pose further challenges for everyone.

"We must all act together now to limit further spread," said World Health Organization chief Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the end of January this year, hoping that globally we can contain the virus from affecting people in countries with weaker health systems. The message is one that is prudent on a local level as well.

Good health makes us forget how awful – how debilitating – poor health can feel, but for many, watching the spread of COVID-19 brings immense anxiety rather than laughter over memes and joy of cheap flights and discounted cruises. We can act together to be a healthy community.



sue
tiffin

Editorial

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Dusk in Haliburton

by Darren Lum

Little bits of good

IT SEEMS THAT everywhere I go in the county these days I run into another young, interesting and interested person who has come back from college, university or travelling to live in the county. Or, they have chosen this area as a new beginning. Either way I find myself thinking about when I first arrived here more than 30 years ago.

After two years of working at YMCA Camp Wanakita, I started a new job at the Bark Lake Leadership Centre. I was renting a house in Gooderham and was starting to compose my life here. I didn't know anyone and so I decided to try curling as a way to meet people. That single decision influenced how I was welcomed into the county and my choice to stay and build my life here. I have never looked back.

I was fortunate to be welcomed by so many kind people: Don Popple, Art Dawson, Phyllis Woodcock, Bunty Scott, The LaRues, and so many more. They made me feel so welcome from the very first night of curling. They were genuinely interested in who I was, what brought me here and what would keep me here. I am forever grateful to all of them.

Everyone needs to feel welcome when they take a risk to start somewhere new. And so all these years later I find myself thinking about my responsibility as a community member to support these young people by getting to know them,

learning about their services, products and skills that they are bringing to our community. I try to listen to their ideas of what they want to have happen in the county. I try to ask good questions and be enthusiastic!

I think we all have a responsibility to be mentors in our own ways. And lots of that is happening. I think we can still do a better job. I especially think our county and municipal governments need to

make every effort to connect with these younger generations and find out what their future looks like. What do they need and want? It is easy for people, and I include myself in this, to say "we've tried that before and it didn't work," or "there is no money for that."

The world is so different today than it was 10, 20 or 30 years ago. What is possible now is different than what was possible 30

years ago. What is needed now is different than what we needed then. We absolutely must keep an open mind to new ideas, especially if we want these people to stay and be the future politicians, business people, educators, parents, volunteers, artists, tradespeople etc. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said "Do your little bits of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." We all have a responsibility to support our younger generations as they bring their bits of good to our county!

Tales from
the great



lynda
shadbolt

Green meadow

In last week's Echo, the story "Could it be?" was attributed to Lynda Shadbolt. It was actually written by Sharon Lynch. Our apologies for the mix-up.

points of view

Hear me out

THE OTHER DAY while watching TV, I saw a commercial for a pair of hearing aids that were apparently undetectable by others, provided others weren't looking directly into your ear canal.

On seeing this, Millie, our Labrador retriever and my TV watching companion, shot me a look that said, "Isn't technology wonderful?"

Call me crazy, but this time I had to disagree.

I happen to be old school when it comes to hearing in general and hearing aids in particular. That is to say I consider a fully concealed hearing aid to be a minor act of vanity, in that it says to the world, "Sure, I'm hard of hearing, but I don't want you to know that until my batteries run low." Which will invariably be just before someone yells "Look out!"

I'm not sure why people appear to be ashamed of hearing loss these days but I blame it on our youth-oriented culture, which regards it as an elderly person's problem and a sure sign of old age – which is something younger

people fear in direct correlation to the number of tattoos they currently own.

What they don't get is that hearing loss is an old person's opportunity too.

In fact, I have always looked at minor hearing loss as a badge of honour that an old person should wear proudly. It's nature's way of driving telemarketers crazy. It's also an evolutionary defence that prevents you from yelling "That's the dumbest thing I ever heard!"



steve
galea

Loon Tales

countless times each day.

Basically, hearing loss lets the rest of the world know, "This person has done his time. He's heard enough. Now leave him in peace." This is why I've always looked at age-related hearing loss as a reward for all those years of good service.

Frankly, when you get to a certain age, I believe you've earned the right to hear only the things you want to hear.

Sure, I understand that you can turn off your hearing aids when the mood suits you, but that seems a little inconvenient given their diminutive size and the eyesight and dexterity of the average user. Also, it can be socially awkward, especially if you try to do it when a young person is making some silly argument about how your generation never listens to theirs.

Look, I appreciate that hearing allows you to be engaged in the world. The down side is that hearing also ruins the best part of being old in which you can ask a question, hear a garbled response and then make up any answer you want to hear.

Also, I dreamed about having an ear trumpet when I got older and hoped they might one day make a resurgence. Not just because they are cool. Rather, it's because I think if you owned one you would get the best of both worlds. You could wave a shiny threatening object around while you yell at younger people to make your point and then pull a power move by listening only when you put it up to your ear and allow them speak into it.

Put that way, modern hearing aids lose a little bit of their appeal, right?

Also, ear trumpets don't require batteries and batteries are the major disadvantage of hearing aids. Perhaps one day they will make hearing aids eco-friendly. If they do, they would probably have to be wind powered, which would be ideal, given the demographic.

Do that, and you'll probably hear fewer complaints.



pic of the past

This week's Pic of the Past is from the June 22, 1977 issue of the *Haliburton County Echo*. The photo ran as part of a full-page feature called "First Highland Home and Vacation Show." The story says that it took six months of planning to create the Highland Home and Vacation Show, which attracted 2,500 visitors in three days. The idea came up after members of the Kinsmen had visited the Toronto Sportsman Show.

letters to the editor

Three cheers for the Repair Café

To the Editor,

What a fantastic community resource SIRCH is. On the weekend I attended the Repair Café in Minden with my '50s all-chrome Marvelizer blender, having finally fed it something it could not chew through and instead blew the blades off. Earlier in the week I'd stopped by Home Hardware and found the correct screw, and decided to buy a socket and harp kit in order to repair a fabulous though inoperable lamp that I'd picked up for a song at Thrift Warehouse. I love old stuff. It's got character, it's built to last and to be repaired. It was made by people who took pride in the job they did. And SIRCH found a room full of people who can actually fix things, a skill that is getting rarer and rarer as built-in obsolescence has become the name of the game. Fortunately, among the many rare and wondrous gifts of this county is the concentration of people who can do all manner of useful stuff. SIRCH found a lot of them and gave them the opportunity to share their skills for free. Probably more than 100 broken down appliances and stuff were saved from the landfill, ranging from blenders to heaters and "irreparable"

clothing and fabric items from this one day alone. But there's another one coming up in Haliburton – and even if an item that is brought in cannot be repaired, at the very least you don't have to pay professional rates to find that out!

And of course, the superb SIRCH chef, Jay McIvor, was manning the burners, providing delicious egg/veggie/cheese patties, as well as a vegan version, and fresh apple fritters bubbling away for dessert. Anyone who has enjoyed his Thursday Hali lunches knows that this is a man who has a gift with diverse ingredients and subtle but effective seasoning choices. Always delicious, always for a donation of any amount, eat in or take out. It's the most delicious deal going and you'll never tire of the menu!

I've re-met people in new jobs who got their training through SIRCH, learning by doing, which in my own experience is the most effective way to get educated in the actual job, which is often far different than the expectations from the education.

Anne-Marie Borthwick
Haliburton



This starling arrived looking for spring in Tory Hill. /Photo by Belinda Gallagher

Brown followed her calling to become vet

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

One moment in Grade 13 science class made a difference in the lives of countless animals, pet owners, a community and to the life of Dr. Laurie Brown for almost 40 years.

"Honestly, I was more directed toward medicine," Brown said after momentarily stepping away from a steady stream of guests offering well wishes at a retirement party on Feb. 22 celebrating her career. "In Grade 13, I had already applied to Queen's [University] to go into medicine, because I was good in sciences, and I was interested in medicine. And [teacher] Dave Mowat, in Grade 13 science, had everybody say what they want to be, and Kerry Riley, sitting behind me, put up her hand and said she was going to be a veterinarian. And there was just a moment. And it was like, oh, that's what I need to be."

Brown went to Queen's for the first semester and transferred to the University of Guelph in the second semester. "And that was it," she said. "It was that sudden, it was that certain, and that was it. And that was right. That's what I was meant to be. That's just that moment, and then that's it. And then all of this."

Brown sweeps her arm toward the retirement party, gesturing to "all of this," where her certification hangs on the wall, a crowd of visitors share smiles and tears recalling her work with their beloved pets, and photo boards depict her in moments throughout her 37-year career, often crouched down in the dirt under horses or with her hands never far from a variety of animals: a lamb, a dog, a pony.

Within weeks after returning post-graduation to Haliburton County, Brown was approached by then-reeve Murray Fearrey and the Municipality of Dysart, offering to co-sign a loan so she might set up a practice in Haliburton, which did not have a veterinarian in place at the time. ("Dr. Brown has indeed made any assistance I could have offered an encouragement to establish that business worthwhile," Fearrey told the *Echo*.) Peter Curry and Rolly Letourneau contacted her, saying, "you design a clinic, we'll build it," remembered Brown, and her then-mother-in-law Barb Wood offered to work for her.

"So within six months, the door opened," Brown said. "I wasn't really in charge of the decision, it just all happened. Then it's just been, I've had wonderful people come and work for me."

At first, in April 1984 when Haliburton Veterinary Services opened, Brown and Wood were the sole employees, taking in an ever-expanding clientele. In 1986, Debbie Stinson (then Barrie) joined the clinic in a co-op placement, and after graduating college as a veterinary technician, stayed alongside Brown – who credited her in a speech later as being "a vital part of the growth of this clinic" – for 33 years. Brown said she didn't ever advertise positions available, and that "the right people just seemed to show up at the right time," many joining as volunteers or in trial or part-time roles only to end up staying for decades as employees and eventual close friends of Brown.

Janine McNab (then Richards) was one of those people, beginning as a volunteer and then joining as an X-ray technician. In a speech at a dinner held after the daytime retirement gathering, McNab said one of Brown's legacies would be as a young businesswoman.

"One who met her share of resistance in the beginning days of her practice by being a female in a mostly male occupation," she said. "One who, as we became young moms, built a playroom in the clinic where we could bring our kids if they weren't well enough to go to day-care and we all pitched in to caring for that child and to the work of the day. One who never asked you to do something she wasn't willing to do herself if she wasn't tied up elsewhere."

While navigating the challenges of owning a business, Brown also acquired physical injuries, even a broken pelvis once, along the way – one photo displayed at the retirement gathering shows a hoof-sized black and blue memory from a visit with a Belgian horse owned by Sinc Nesbitt.

"When he got her home she had a swollen lump, and he said, this is a champion mare, I need you to look at this," said Brown. "So I got down, I had a look, I touched her hock, and she kicked me, just like that. And [Sinc] looked around and he said, 'did she just kick you?' And I said, I think she did. And it didn't really hurt that much, but anyway, it turned into that, that's a Belgian horse footprint. She never made a misstep, she never kicked



Dr. Laurie Brown, with Deb Stinson, who first joined Haliburton Veterinary Services as a co-op student and after graduating college, returned to work alongside her for more than three decades. A retirement party was held for Brown in February./Submitted



Staff at Haliburton Veterinary Services, seen in this team photo, celebrated the nearly 40-year career of Dr. Laurie Brown (front, right) on Feb. 22 at a retirement party held at the Pinestone./Submitted

me again, she was a treat to treat from then on. I think it was just, she was in a new place and pushed back. And that's probably the least. That bruise did not leave a scar. I've got scars everywhere, but that was the least of my injuries."

Brown can't count the scratches, bites, kicks, even bruises to her arm because of a birthing animal's uterine contractions, nor can she count the animals she has seen. "I couldn't begin to guess," she said, making note of 100 cows at home, and hundreds of dogs through Winterdance Dogsled Tours and Haliburton Forest alone.

Hank DeBruin, of Winterdance, said Brown "has been with our family at some of our most joyful times and also our times of deepest sadness and anxiety," noting that over years of working with top veterinarians from around the world during races, "while we have met a few that would be her equal, there are none that would be better than her."

"Laurie always had time to explain issues/diagnosis in ways we and more importantly our children – no matter how young, could understand," said DeBruin. "When the children were younger she would take the time to take them into the lab and let them look through her microscope or at X-rays to understand what she was telling them she saw. While her skills and expertise are second to none, so is her compassion for all animals. For

20 years she has treated every one of our pets with the utmost care and knows all our dogs, their family trees and histories as well as we do."

McNab said Brown was so skilled, "she made what she did look easy," and said her operating room was calm and organized even during emergencies.

Even as Brown answers questions requiring soul-searching contemplation about her career in the hallway during the retirement celebration, she multi-tasks, deftly jumping up to welcome guests or send them on their way with a personalized farewell, remembering details from one of the many conversations she had that day, and returning to her interrupted thought with ease.

"For those of you who don't know and I myself knew her for years before it came up in conversation, she finished third in her class at Guelph; no easy feat considering it was then harder to get into veterinary medicine than it was to get into medical school," said McNab in her speech. "She was a skilled surgeon and a brilliant clinician. I have assisted her in surgery when a phone call would come in and while continuing to operate she'd ask questions and be able to assess the concern, calculate dosages in her head and prescribe medication or next steps. I was always amazed at how her brain

A vet's work is filled with happiness and heartbreak

from page 8

worked. As someone who's worked in hospital operating rooms and under sterile conditions with numerous doctors and surgeons I'd never seen anything like it."

Last November, when McNab's dog Sully was nearing the end of his life, she called Brown for her support.

"Sully was in his favourite spot on a rug half-way under the spare bed and after she sedated him, we sat with him as the cats came and went and we waited for the sedation to take effect," said McNab. "I felt very calm and peaceful with the whole unhappy circumstance. Laurie has that effect on difficult situations. So I asked if she'd like a cup of tea but she declined, saying her stomach was always a bit off at these times. In all the years I've known her, I didn't know that, didn't realize the cost to her of easing suffering in this way. Later, when I apologized for my lack of understanding she reassured me, humbly stating, 'who else should do it, Janine? It's my job,' and once again her dedication, compassion and professionalism became a light in a dark time."

Brown said the human connection with pets has stuck out over time. "The human-animal bond. It really is, it's a remarkable thing. It kills you at times, but it's really a remarkable thing," she said.

Of all of the experiences – some she had time to try to prepare for and some that she didn't – she recalls with teary eyes a time when she encountered an injured fox brought in through Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary.

"I think maybe the most startling reaction was a little fox that was brought in with his leg half gone," said Brown. "That look in that face, the day we had to amputate his leg. I don't know, there was just an intelligence or an acceptance or something, that best and worst moment. I just ... I don't know, the soul of God, but that was the best and worst."

Besides working as a resource for rescue agencies, Brown facilitated low-cost rabies clinics, lobbied against the introduction of GST which would make vet care more unaffordable for some of her clients, and helped house abandoned animals in need.

"Throughout her years, Laurie has self-sacrificed to be the practitioner that she wanted to be," said Aimee Filion, the owner of Haliburton Veterinary Services now. "One who, at the end of the day, after all of the stress and life-deciding decisions, could be proud to see what she saw in the mirror. The one piece of advice that she gave me when I first started practicing was the right decision, the right choice, the right call was the one that let



At a retirement party held Feb. 22, Dr. Laurie Brown met with clients and friends from throughout her nearly four decade career as Haliburton's vet. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

you sleep at night and let you look yourself in the eye. I have no doubt that Laurie lived by this rule every day of her life, and it shows to this very day."

While she has taken time with her clients, she eventually decided the time was right to retire and did so last year (Filion said the retirement party came later after much convincing).

"I just think that the responsibility, it weighs on you," said Brown of her decision to retire. "Being on-call. There are a lot of things I'm going to miss about practice. I'm not going to miss the walking into a room and saying, you know, your dog's got bone cancer, your dog's got lung cancer, your dog needs a \$10,000 surgery. That stuff I will not miss. The well animal visits, the happy puppies and stuff, sure. But I won't miss those other visits. The euthanasias. Listening for that last heart beat."

Brown said retirement gives her the opportunity to focus on being a daughter to her 100-year-old mom, a mom to her daughter, and grandmother to her grandkids, but also acknowledged that in keeping farm animals she really isn't that far from someone in need of help – even in the still-dark early morning hours before the retirement party.

"At home, this morning, you know,

Casey jumps out of bed, 6 o'clock in the morning, there's a heifer on the side of the hill trying to calf, upside down, he thinks she's dead, we all run out, pull the calf out, the heifer's all wobbling around, the calf is all swollen, you know, stomach tube, colostrum, all that kind of stuff, that's been my day," she said. "So am

I retired? I don't get paid, that's all. I do the same stuff when I'm home. So I don't miss ... don't you miss all the animals? No. There is always someone at our house trying to die, that's the way it is."

And with a final goodbye to friends in the hallway, she turns and heads back to the room of people waiting to thank her.

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Dr. Laurie Brown, centre, poses for photos during her retirement party in February. The long-time vet shared the ups and downs of her profession with the Echo during the event at the Pinestone.



County awards contract for service delivery review

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The County of Haliburton will award the contract for a service delivery review it will have conducted for itself and its four, lower-tier municipalities to Toronto-based StrategyCorp.

Councillors voted to award the contract for the project, which will be completed during the next few months, at a Feb. 26 meeting. Council has been discussing conducting such a review during the past year. The study will look at the delivery of services, in particular, which tier is best suited to deliver which service, opportunities for consolidation of services, etc.

While initial staff reports regarding the project had referred to it as a "service delivery and governance review," with the implication the report may contain recommendations for the possible reconfiguration of the local municipal government structure, more recent reports have referred to it only as "service delivery review."

During last week's meeting, chief administrative officer Mike Rutter said the review would concentrate

solely on service delivery, and that any conversation about the potential reconfiguration of local municipal structure would be left to council based on the information in the review.

"I can't emphasize enough that this will really deal only with service delivery," Rutter said, adding that the information could then be used to inform any conversation on governance restructuring.

The county received eight bids on the project, ranging in cost from about \$65,000 to about \$225,000, plus disbursements and taxes.

The bid from StrategyCorp was toward the high end of that spectrum at \$219,000 plus disbursements and taxes.

As Rutter explained, proposals were evaluated by the county's five chief administrative officers based on a number of criteria including understanding of the project and completeness of the proposal; methodology and work plan; experience and qualifications; and cost.

A short list of three companies chosen through the CAOs' evaluations then made presentations to county council in closed session on Feb. 12, and councillors evaluated their presentations.

"The end result recommended that it be awarded to StrategyCorp," Rutter said. "I have noted a few things in [my report] that really set their proposal apart."

Rutter said the company had given every elected official in the county the opportunity to be interviewed, and interviewed various municipal staff.

"Their consultation with staff didn't just end with senior management or even middle management, they interviewed the frontline staff as well, which we thought was pretty unique and creative," he said.

"They had completed a number of similar projects," Rutter continued, noting one in Newmarket that had resulted in significant cost savings from service delivery realignment. He said the company also has experience with small and rural municipalities.

Rutter's initial estimate for the project, which he'd noted at the time may be conservative, was \$150,000. Heading into the process, it was agreed that the upper tier would fund half the project, while each of the lower tiers would contribute 12.5 per cent of the cost.

However, the county was successful in an application for \$150,000 of modernization funding from the provincial government, meaning the bulk of the project's cost will be covered by a provincial grant.

While it was initially anticipated the project would be completed late in the year, a stipulation of the grant funding is that the review must be complete by June 12.



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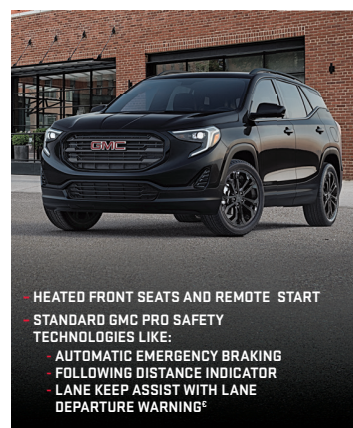
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sports

Wrestlers reflect on family that took them to OFSAA

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

This year's Red Hawks wrestling season is over, capped off by a trip to the all-provincials for Grade 12 Nic Graham and Grade 11 Eli Samson, who won't forget the experience and the team that made it possible.

Neither athlete earned a podium finish at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championships in Sault Ste. Marie from March 2 to 4, but what they did was represent their school, their team and the area well as athletes and citizens.

Coach Paul Klose said both wrestlers represented the school "with class and pride."

In the four years Graham has wrestled, "He has shown continued development and represented Hal High proudly."

Starting with two match wins, Graham advanced to wrestle in the 89 kilogram weight class on the second day of the three-day event, but would lose his first match of the day ending his run. This was his third all-provincial final and he finished in the top-12 to end his Hawks career.

Klose called Samson's .500 record of two wins and two losses in the 83 kilogram weight class a "respectable result on the provincial stage." He added this "experience will serve him well for the future."

Making OFSAA this year for Samson was a breakthrough, finishing with a Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association silver.

In last year's COSSA championship, the Grade 11 wrestler lost both matches, which ended his season.

The difference this year in advancing to the all-provincials for the first time was about having a different mindset.

"If you go into a match with the mindset of 'OK, try not to get hurt that much.' You already know what's going to happen. You're not going to do good, right? But if you change your mindset and say, 'OK, I'm going to do this and coming in first, second and going to OFSAA, it just changes the game,'" Graham said.

Samson said he was excited and nervous about his first all-provincial competition.

"It just blew me away," he said, referring to walking through the doors and seeing the weigh-ins for all the weight classes. "Just looking at my line-up at 83 [kilograms] and I could see all the people that are there. It's a little bit scary. It's a little bit frightening and it's also exciting," he said.

Now that he's gone through it, he's ready to return to the all-provincial stage next year.

Graham's advice to his younger teammate before the event was to enjoy the experience and have fun.

"It's your first OFSAA so you have nothing to lose.



Red Hawks wrestlers Nic Graham, left, and Eli Samson represented their team, their school and their community with "class and pride" at the 2020 OFSAA Wrestling Championship held from March 2 to 4 at the GLF Memorial Gardens in Sault Ste Marie. They didn't finish on the podium in their respective weight classes, but they returned with a sense of who they are as athletes and as citizens. /DARREN LUM Staff

You're good. You have all the tools," he said.

Samson said the advice helped calm him before going. "It changed my mind set because Nic had the mindset of placing pretty good. Like Nic ... he's like a big brother. I want to follow him. I want to do what he's doing. He's setting the bar high. I want to go with him," he said.

Graham's focus on this third trip was to improve on his top-20 finish last year in spite of a sore right shoulder, which was sustained during an on-mat practice two weeks before.

"I knew what I had to do and I did it. My shoulder was holding me back," he said. "It was definitely holding me back, but I was still going. I was still trying my best, wrestling my best."

He adds his shoulder was weaker and the range of motion was diminished.

"I still wasn't letting that stop me," he said. "I set a goal for myself that I wanted to get top-six [at OFSAA]. I unsuccessfully didn't reach my goal, but I ended coming in 12th place, I believe. It was hard wrestling. It was

fun wrestling."

In talking about the wrestling community, Graham said, it's "one massive family."

"We are all there to win. We're all there to kick each other's butts, but at the same time everyone helps out everyone. Good sportsmanship all around," he said.

One example of this is the I.E. Weldon Secondary School coach, Maurice LeClair who provided in-tournament motivation, advice and help. They appreciated his help.

His COSSA trip included an opening loss, which put him in the consolation bracket, forcing him to win outright to earn a third place. This finish was disappointing, as he was the top Kawartha seed entering competition. However the third place enabled him to wrestle a challenge match with the second place finisher for the all-provincial berth, which he won by points.

see WRESTLING page 14

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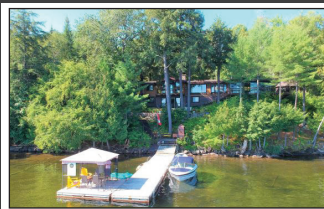


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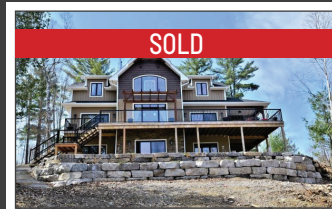


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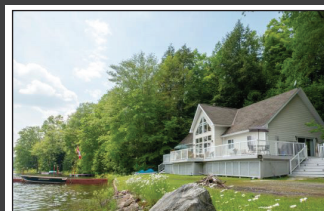


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- 4-season Viceroy-style home/cottage
- Deeded access to lake just steps away
- 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, new shingles



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33



West Lake \$614,900

- 2900 Sq Ft executive home on 1.5 acre lot, perfect for every season
- 3+ bedroom, 3 bath, & cozy Bunkie/Studio
- Fabulous lakeview plus a new dock



Rosemarie Jung*
457-7049



South Lake \$149,000

- Beautiful waterfront lot!
- 118 feet frontage, level,
- Driveway in, hydro at line.
- Area of nicer homes & cottages.



David Lee*
286-2138 x 27



Gooderham Home \$315,000

- Good-bye City Life, Hello Country Life
- Spacious home nestled on a lovely in-town lot
- Easy flow floor plan, ideal for entertaining
- Upstairs you'll find 4 bedrooms & 4 pc bath



Brandon Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27



Haliburton-By-The-Lake \$399,000

- Open Concept, 3-bedroom, 2 bath home
- Walking distance to all the amenities in town
- Includes access to a private park & boat launch



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505



Industrial Park Rd \$1,350,000

- 12,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this building!



Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30



Hudson Lake \$389,000

- Neat & tidy 3-bedroom cottage,
- Fully equipped, even paddle boat & canoe



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

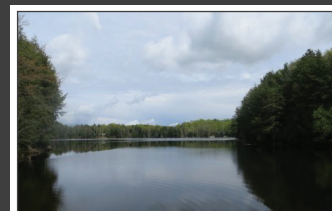


MANY qualified buyers looking for:

- Vacant Land/Acreage
- Waterfront Cottages (Year-round & Seasonal)
- In-town Residential Homes



Christine Sharp*
286-2138 x59



West Lake \$265,300

- 356' of frontage with on West Lake & with gentle path to the waterfront
- Utilities at the lot line, driveway installed on a year round municipally maintained road



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28

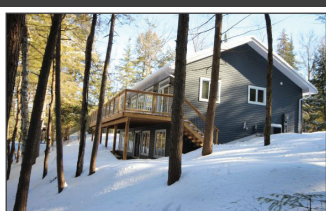


Barry Line \$349,000

- Private country home on 2 acres
- Open concept with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath
- Conveniently located on a quiet road between Haliburton & Minden



Melanie Vigars*
286-2138 x 32



Cameron Lake \$750,000

- 1-year old construction, shows like a model
- 3 bedroom, 2 baths, plus room to grow
- relax at this quiet motor restricted lake



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 25



Haliburton Lake \$899,000

- 3-bedroom 2.5 bath modern lakefront home
- Spectacular view, deep water off the dock
- Renovated Boathouse, 2 double car garages
- 1280 Sq Ft garage/shop with high ceilings



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25



Kinmount Farm \$639,000

- 201-acre farm property close to town
- Features pastures, trails, hardwood bush, 26-foot deep spring-fed pond
- Modern 1500 Sq Ft barn & log home



Jennifer Bacon*
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Wrestling coaches made team into a family

from page 12

He said losing that opening match motivated him and pushed him in the challenge match.

Recalling the challenges he faced, the top-12 finish was satisfying. "Like a brick wall, I just broke through. I would not give up because I wanted it bad," he said.

Graham said his track record at OFSAA included steady improvement. In his first year he lost both matches. His second year he finished in the top-20.

"This year? Top-12. I'll take it," he said. "For what I've gone through? Yep."

Among the other challenges the two faced came during practices in the lead up to OFSAA.

With the shoulder soreness, Graham could not wrestle so that left Samson without competition close in age. The Grade 11 had to wrestle his coaches. Graham worked on his cardio.

They love their coaches Fockler and Klose for the "unbelievable" support this year and all the years they've been part of the "family," the Red Hawks wrestling team.

"No matter what they didn't give up on you. The coaches have been there for me for four years now. They've motivated. Inspiration. All this. ... They made a team into a family and a sport into a passion, I think," Graham said.

The support has meant a lot to Samson, who joined the team in Grade 9 when his sister was wrestling.

He said ever since he started he was "glued into this family."

The ongoing negotiations between the province and the teachers' union continue to cloud the athletic landscape for secondary school athletes and teams. One result is teachers are unable to leave for sporting events during school hours.

“

I know for a fact the whole team taught me something. I know every individual person has taught me something about wrestling and life itself.

— Nic Graham

The wrestlers knew this and still wanted their coaches to join them in Sault Ste. Marie so they came together to write a letter to Trillium Lakelands District School Board director of education Larry Hope and the school trustees.

Although the coaches were not permitted to share in the all-provincial experience, the letter prompted a face-to-face meeting with Hope, which resulted in a decision to have the school's principal Chris Boulay clear his schedule to make the seven-hour round trip to Sault Ste. Marie and spend three days and two nights with the wrestlers. Individuals with an Ontario College of Teachers certificate (in good standing) such as administrative staff and retired teachers are required for teams and athletes to compete.

The future of the Hawks is in good hands.

The wrestling season is over, but this all-provincial

experience is just a beginning of a new chapter for Samson. The returning athlete is aware of how he will likely be a leader on the team next year like Graham and knows he can't be someone he is not.

"I definitely know I can't be the next Nic Graham," he said. "I can be the newer Eli."

Graham chimed in: "I couldn't be the next Aidan Coles."

Coles is easily one of the most successful wrestlers in Red Hawks history, having earned multiple trips and consecutive OFSAA podium finishes. He is the only male wrestler to reach the podium and graduated last year.

When it comes to being a leader the advice Graham has for his teammate is to be confident.

"Don't let people drag you down. If they're not working hard, motivate them. Keep them moving. Just have fun with it. It's not pure competition. We're in this sport to have fun and just fun all the way through. We're here to work hard. Dedicate and help others and hopefully others will help you too because I know for my last year I hope I taught you guys something. I hope I taught the whole team something because I know for a fact the whole team taught me something. I know every individual person has taught me something about wrestling and life itself," he said.

COSSA highlights

Note: Two weeks before OFSAA the Hawks performed well at COSSA with four top four finishes, including Graham and Samson. Grade 9 Levi Samson finished fourth in the 83 kilogram weight class and Ethan Coles finished third. Coles wrestled in the challenge match for a berth to OFSAA, but narrowly lost.



Above, there were plenty of smiles at the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association's Jack Rabbit and Track Attack instructional youth program session.



Right, Nordic skier Sena Renel looks back while skiing.

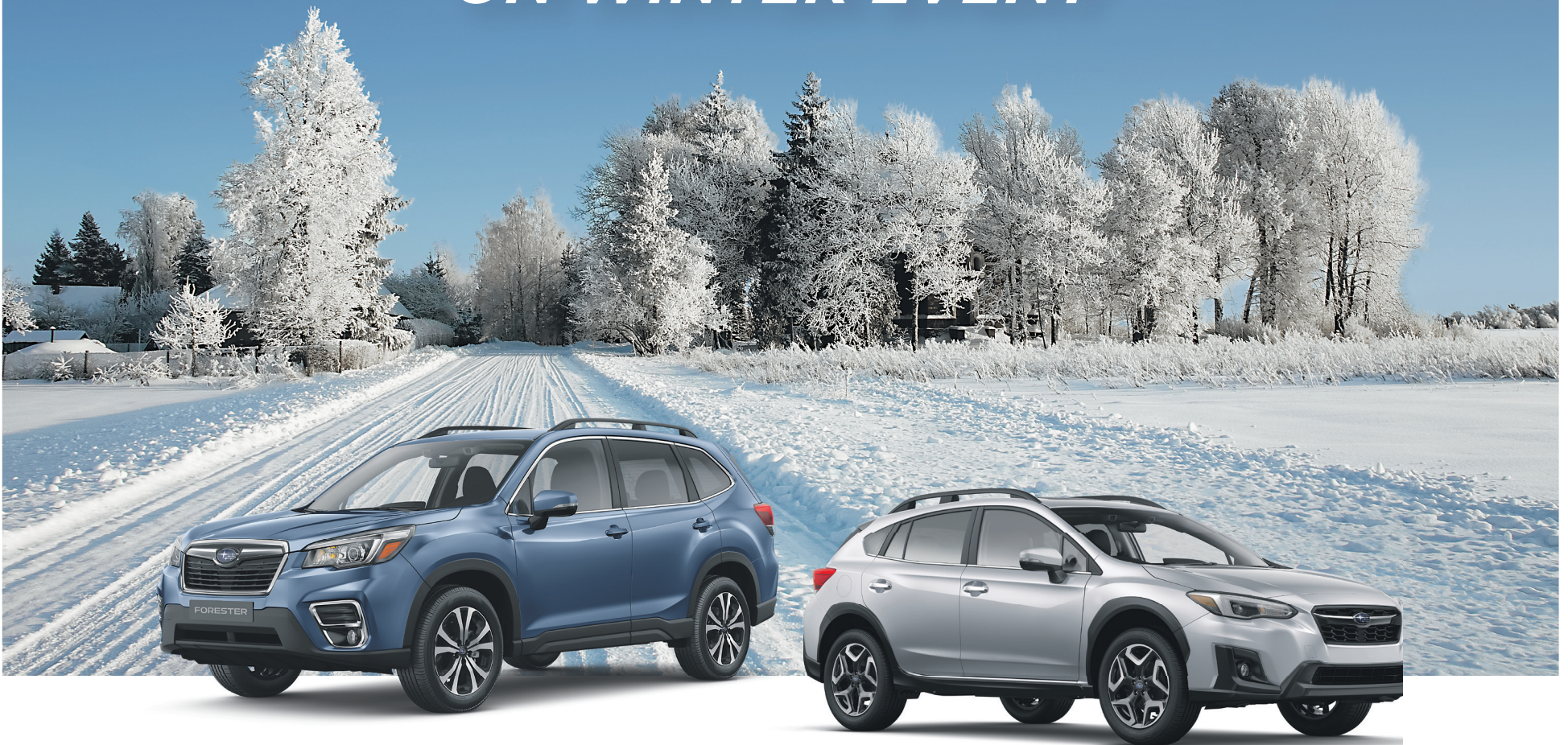


Lovely day for skiing

Bethany Houghton blows bubbles during the final session of the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association's Jack Rabbit and Track Attack instructional youth program offering on Saturday, March 7 at Glebe Park in Haliburton. Youth participants enjoyed a final session to the season with fun activities and games, including races. The youth program, which provides instruction and inspiration for Nordic skiing to children as young as four, is held weekly on Saturdays in January and February at the Glebe Park in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Hawks season ends against Panthers in COSSA

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

There is plenty to feel good about for the Red Hawks senior boys' basketball team whose 2019-2020 season ended with a COSSA semi-final 50-27 loss to the Prince Edward Collegiate Panthers close to two weeks ago.

With the ongoing labour issues between the province and the teachers'

union, the past few weeks of the winter athletic season has been challenging on a logistic level with teachers unable to leave the school during school hours. Having administrative staff step in and help coach provided the opportunity to compete, which was a victory for the Hawks and other affected TLDSB secondary schools.

The Panthers were going to be a tough out for the Hawks, as they entered play undefeated in the regular season in the Bay of Quinte area. Their lone loss came

in the Bay of Quinte Championship and so they were looking to redeem themselves by winning the A COSSA Championships.

Coach Paul Longo characterized the Hawks as having a solid game against the Panthers, who were led by Alex Arsenault with 27 points. Arsenault had missed the previous six weeks with a broken hand and returned for the game and obviously didn't have any rust with his game. Along with the points, he also added six rebounds.

Longo said in an email he "was a definite handful, but we made him work for his points."

He adds losing to the Panthers, who advanced past the Hawks to finish as the

COSSA A champs, softened the disappointment. The Panthers, he pointed out, are attending the all-provincials as medal hopefuls, entering as an eighth seed in the OFSAA tournament with a 20-team field of schools in the province.

The future is bright for the team with up to 11 players expected to return, including captains and guards Camden Marra and Brian Kim. Longo said his guards "played solid at both ends of the floor."

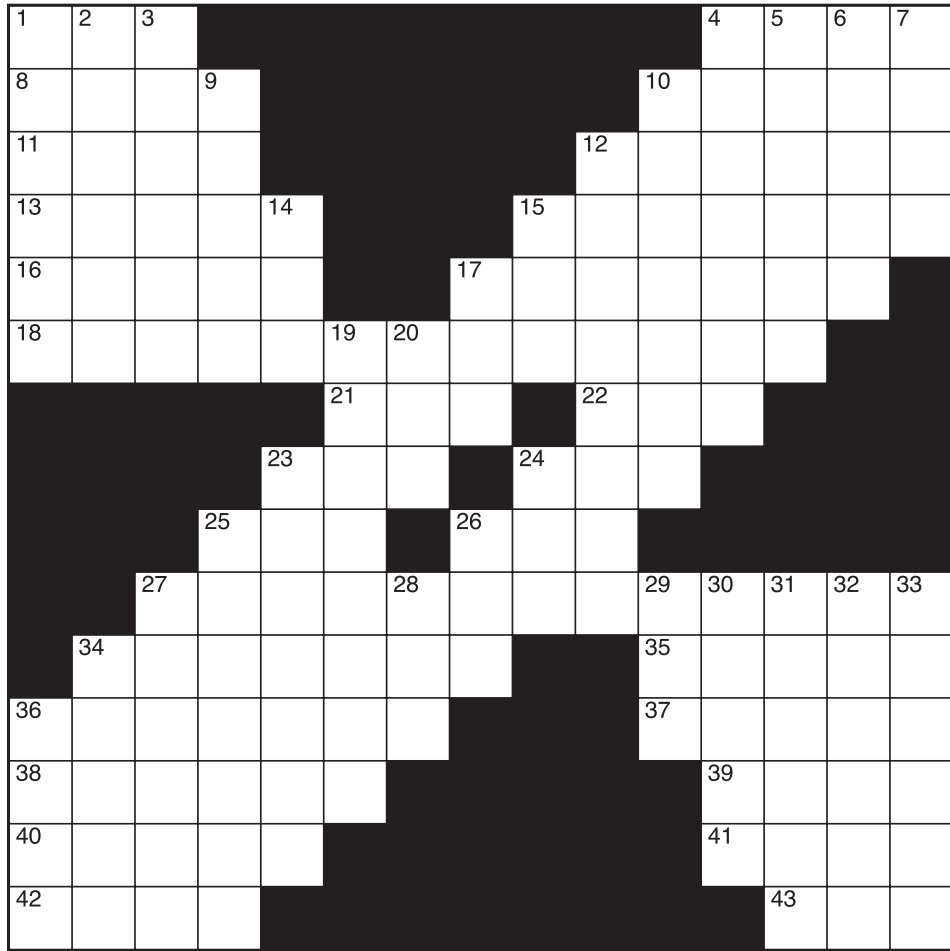
"We are looking good for next season with 10 or 11 returning players. Overall, incredible group of young men and the entire season was a highlight for coaches [Sam] Little, [me], and [Dave] Waito," he wrote in an email.

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. A team's best pitcher
 - 4. Designer Jacobs
 - 8. Hip joint
 - 10. A dialect of English
 - 11. Portrays
 - 12. Panic
 - 13. The head of a team
 - 15. High priest
 - 16. League of Legends locale
 - 17. Protective folds
 - 18. Treats allergies
 - 21. Voodoo spirits
 - 22. Single unit
 - 23. Unit of measurement
 - 24. Brew
 - 25. Burundian franc
 - 26. Self
 - 27. Bengals great
 - 34. Making letters overlap
 - 35. Piece of pizza
 - 36. Illegal drug
 - 37. Card game
 - 38. The highest point in

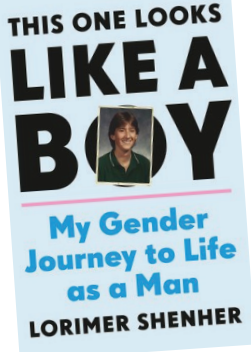
- the development
 - 39. Oh, God!
 - 40. Wives (law)
 - 41. Monetary unit of Samoa
 - 42. Supplements with difficulty
 - 43. Valentine's Day color
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Warm climate tree or shrub
 - 2. Silky case spun by larvae
 - 3. Still in existence
 - 4. Light, two-stranded rope
 - 5. Wear away
 - 6. Beginnings
 - 7. Essence
 - 9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
 - 10. Path
 - 12. Repeated tones

- 14. Expresses surprise
- 15. Monetary unit of Burma
- 17. When you hope to get there
- 19. Brighten
- 20. Fifth note of a major scale
- 23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
- 24. We all do it
- 25. Scrounges
- 26. Unit of energy
- 27. Begin to be
- 28. Midway between northeast and east
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Succulent plants
- 31. Performer
- 32. Gas station term
- 33. Required
- 34. Soviet monetary unit
- 36. Eating house

Answers on page 18

Book of the Month - March

This One Looks Like A Boy by Lorimer Shenher



An acclaimed author, public speaker, and advocate for marginalized people and police reform, Lorimer Shenher is inspiring in his honest and unique memoir of gender transition and coming-of-age, proof positive that it's never too late to find your true identity.

Since he was a small child, Lorimer Shenher knew something for certain: he was a boy. The problem was, he was growing up in a girl's body.

In this candid and thoughtful memoir, Shenher shares the story of his gender journey, from childhood gender dysphoria to teenage sexual experimentation to early-adult denial of his identity - and finally the acceptance that he is trans, culminating in gender reassignment surgery in his fifties. *This One*

Looks Like A Boy takes us through one of the most important decisions Shenher will ever make, as he comes into his own and finally discovers acceptance and relief. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.



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NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: March 24, 2020
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.
APPLICATIONS:
The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Hagerty, Kelterborn, Jones, Marinescu
Location: 2741, 2777 Boice Bradley Drive – Redstone Lake.
- Between Concessions 12 and 13 in Lots 28 and 29 and part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 28, Concession 12 and part of the original shore road allowance in front of the original allowance for road between Concessions 12, 13 on a plan of survey, prepared by Greg Bishop Surveying and Consulting Ltd. dated July 21, 2015 and a preliminary plan prepared by C.T. Strongman Surveying Ltd. dated October 30, 2019.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 12th day of March, 2020.

Jeff Iles,
Director of Planning and Land Information

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The funeral arrangements for Edith are private. As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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Sympathy



INSIDE THE ECHO

This week's circulation: 4,825 copies



Melvin Flood can understand why the registry office is much more busy now—he's one of the people who've decided to leave the fast pace behind and move to Haliburton. For more, see page 10



Working in a Union Carbide factory taught Bill Jeffrey a lot about chemicals, and why he doesn't want any of them in his food. For more on this organic gardener with a message, please turn to page 12.



One of the highest 'marks' Tanya Allaire can get is a hug from one of the residents of Hyland Crest, where she spends part of a school day refereeing euchre games. See page 17 for more



THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

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Next on The Journal: Haliburton's debate on Lord's Prayer will get national coverage

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

A LOCAL ISSUE will be getting national television coverage after a crew from CBC's *The Journal* spent a few days in the area interviewing people about the Lord's Prayer controversy.

"It's something we have all considered—Canadian culture and how it's changing," says producer Jim Williamson of the debate centring on the whether tradition—the saying of the prayer during opening exercises in schools—is being lost in the translation of one of Canada's other traditions, multiculturalism—acceptance of and abeyance to all cultures.

"People across the country can really identify with what's happening here," adds reporter, Eric Rankin. "This issue is important in other provinces too."

But only in Haliburton County has the issue been brought to the point where someone's job was at stake. A few weeks ago, the board of education agreed with Wilberforce principal, Charles Hughes, suggestion that he be demoted rather than fired over his refusal to stop saying the prayer in his class. While the trustees agreed that the prayer is an important part of the school day, they felt Mr. Hughes was not justified in breaking board policy which replaced the prayer with a minute's silence, and therefore setting a bad example for the children.

The *Journal* found out about the local dilemma through two stories in *The Globe and Mail*: A front page story about the demotion on March 4; and a news feature written by this reporter in the March 6 edition. The latter story outlined the debate which has been raging through the Letters to the Editor in *The Echo*.

First to be interviewed was *Echo* editor and publisher, Len Pizzev, who had opened the floodgates with his column in favour of the Ontario Court of Appeals ruling that exclusive use of the

Please turn to page 2



CBC cameraman Hans Vanderzande focuses in on the pro-prayer panel reporter Eric Rankin, foreground, is about to interview for a seven-minute feature The Journal will broadcast sometime in the next few days. In the background is producer Jim Williamson.

County battles hard to hold budget line

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

It could have been worse, the chairman of the county's board of management said as he announced a 7.4 per cent increase in this year's budget.

"Nearly all department requests were trimmed," said Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey, noting that if they hadn't have been, the increase—primarily borne by the municipalities—could have reached 22 per cent.

"This is a lot sweeter pill than you'll get from (federal finance minister Michael) Wilson and (Ontario treasurer Robert) Nixon."

The province demands more services but doesn't offer more money

The trick with striking a fair budget, Fearrey told his fellow county councillors last Wednesday, is to keep taxpayers in mind without stifling some of the plans which will make the county continue to grow.

On top of this, the county must implement the policies set out by the province—such as the \$30,000 set aside for the pay equity program—without expecting the province to provide any extra funds to do so. In fact, this is the first year the government has put a hold on the general support and resource equalization grants, which are the same as last year: \$95,549 and \$174,293.

And while land division fees put \$76,131 into the county's coffers last year, the management committee believes the pace of real estate development will level off this year, and has planned for \$65,000 in revenues. Other supplementary taxes are also expected to fall to \$8,000 from \$16,540.

Other revenue, apart from the levies charged against municipalities, is projected at \$33,900. But the list of expenditures is much longer.

Because of an increase in fees paid to council councillors, this year's budget allocates \$13,000 for these fees, up \$3,300. Now instead of getting \$40 for each meeting attended, except county council, the 17 representatives will get \$50. For

each county council meeting they will get a \$25 increase to \$100. They also get a 25 cents a kilometre mileage allowance, expected to total \$6,350. Land Division Committee fees have also been increased and are expected to come in at \$5,600.

Clerk treasurer, Gary McKnight, also got a raise this year. He is now

Please turn to page 3

Downpour floods stores, houses

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

It didn't rain last Tuesday night, it poured. And poured and poured. But when you have a thunderstorm in the middle of winter, the frost doesn't allow the rain to soak into the ground and it must search out new escapes. These were found in several downtown businesses, the Legion, and countless number of homes.

The Legion was perhaps the hardest hit by the flooding. With a thick layer of ice built up on the parking lot, the doorway leading into the Mountbatten Room was lower and provided easy access into the building.

"At one spot, it was two inches deep," says manager Jim Tice. Luckily, at 11 o'clock people in the Mountbatten Room noticed that water was seeping through and action to stop it began immediately. Ray Scott and his bulldozer were called in to break up the ice and level off the parking lot, while inside, everyone started moving the furniture out of the mini-flood's way.

"Everyone who was here just pitched right in," says Tice. Ten people worked for two and a half hours, including George Logan with his wet vacuum, a machine put to much use in 24 hours. The next morning, the rugs in two rooms were shampooed so Tice doesn't expect there will be any permanent damage.

Bill and Freda Davis think they lost between \$1,000 and \$1,500 worth of carpet after rain water flooded their Colour Your World, Carpet Division store in the Stedman's Mall.

"We're lucky actually," says Bill Davis, who was expecting an order of eight carpets to join the three which were soaked on the floor. "No matter how bad things are, they

Please turn to page 3

MNR cuts a hot issue with fire chiefs

by SUSAN GROBER
Staff Reporter

Due to personnel cut-backs, the Ministry of Natural Resources has requested that volunteer firefighters from the municipalities spend more time fighting forest fires. But local reaction to the request is mixed.

"We don't want to do it," says Monmouth fire chief Max Walsh.

"We've got to go buy more equipment. And I think it would be the end of most volunteer fire departments because some of us just can't afford the time. There's just no way in the world those people can afford to leave their jobs — a contractor could be losing out up to \$500."

The MNR's change involves reducing 171 five-man crews across the province to 207 three-man crews.

— a reduction of 25 per cent, says Tom Russell, operations manager for the Haliburton office. But the manpower in this area will be cut 46 per cent, he adds. Cost efficiency is the reason for the cuts.

"We've had a reduction, there's no doubt there will be an increase of reliance on municipal volunteers to do more work," says Russell. "They will be called to spend more time away from their jobs working on putting out fires. But we will still be there, we will still support them. We'll make it work."

But Walsh doesn't think it will be so easy. Volunteer firefighters are reimbursed partially for missed

wages, but Walsh says many can't afford to leave their jobs for the amount of money they get. So, he says, less people will be volunteering, and some may even quit.

Keith Tallman, Haliburton County Warden, agrees.

"It's certain we're going to have trouble with our volunteers," Tallman says. "Basically, some have said they won't respond to the fires."

Russell understands that this may cause some problems. He met with area fire chiefs at a meeting last week, and says that the departments will have to "change their style of

Please turn to page 3

Caution key to position search

by MARTHA PERKINS
Staff Reporter

After having three men sit in the administrator's chair in three years, the residents of Hyland Crest need to be given a breathing space before a new administrator is chosen, says the chairman of the home's committee of management.

"At this time, there's no need to jump too quickly," Bill Howe told his fellow county councillors last Wednesday. "We'll take a breathing stretch so we can be really sure we have the right person."

"The bottom line is the wellbeing of these people, regardless."

Earlier this month, Dwight Morley tendered his resignation from the job he has held for less than a year. He replaced Karl Samuelson who immediately upon receiving the post, applied for jobs elsewhere. However, before Samuelson arrived at the home, Sid Brown had been

the administrator for many years. "What has transpired is the best for all concerned," Howe said. The committee readily accepted Morley's resignation after denying him a salary increase and administrative requests.

The search for a new administrator is expected to take four to six months, during which time the committee will "formulate policies" which will more clearly outline the role of administrator, Howe said in an interview after the meeting.

"There's got to be compassion, feeling. You also have to have someone who relates to the staff," he said of the qualities the committee will be looking for.

In the meantime, Howe said county clerk-treasurer Gary McKnight will be doing double duty at the home and that the "conflict and turmoil" has evaporated.

"The big thing is not to jump too quickly," Howe stressed.



Everyone wanted to be a cat at Monmouth's Figure Skating Carnival. More pictures, story on page 15

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